

Extract from "Papers relating to the Foreign Relations of the United States. Japan: 1931-1941.", Vol. II, pp. 786-7

"Memorandum of a Conversation"

("Washington), December 7, 1941

The Japanese Ambassador asked for an appointment to see the Secretary at 1:00 p.m., but later telephoned and asked that the appointment be postponed to 1:45 as the Ambassador was not quite ready. The Ambassador and Mr. Kurusu arrived at the Department at 2:05 p.m. and were received by the Secretary at 2:20.

The Japanese Ambassador stated that he had been instructed to deliver at 1:00 p.m. the document which he handed the Secretary, but that he was sorry that he had been delayed owing to the need of more time to decode the message. The Secretary asked why he had specified one o'clock. The Ambassador replied that he did not know but that that was his instruction. The Secretary said that anyway he was receiving the message at two o'clock. After the Secretary had read two or three pages he asked the Ambassador whether this document was presented under instructions of the Japanese Government. The Ambassador replied that it was. The Secretary as soon as he had finished reading the document turned to the Japanese Ambassador and said:

"I must say that in all my conversations with you (the Japanese Ambassador) during the last nine months I have never uttered one word of untruth. This is borne out absolutely by the record. In all my fifty years of public service I have never seen a document that was more crowded with infamous falsehoods and distortions on a scale so huge that I never imagined until today that any Government on this planet was capable of uttering them."

The Ambassador and Mr. Kurusu then took their leave without making any comment.

A copy of the paper which was handed to the Secretary by the Japanese Ambassador is attached.

Joseph W. Ballantine.

*The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, took place on December 7, 1941, at 1:20 p.m., Washington time (7:50 a.m., Honolulu time), which was December 8, 3:20 a.m. Tokyo time. On December 8 at 6 a.m. Tokyo time (December 7, 4 p.m. Washington time), the Japanese imperial headquarters announced that war began as of "dawn" on that date.

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合衆国外交關係圖書之文書

同書日本之部 一九三二年一月四日昭和七年十一月
六年第三卷七八六頁及七八七頁

「會議備忘錄」

Doc 220H

ノント、一九四一年八月廿二日

日本大使、午後二時、國務長官、會見、文書、要請
セリ、然レドモ後、電話、大使、準備、書類、セリ、大約來
時、十五分、二通、ヤウ西請、セリ、大使、未、栖代、午
後二時、國務省、到着、二時三十分、長官、面接、
日本大使、文書、長官、午後二時、才、
想像、以上、時間、要セ、クメ、畢、ト、求、セリ、長官、
何故、彼、大使、二時、指定、セ、ト、不可、リ、大使、理
由、知、サルモ、シ、訓、令、依、モ、ト、合、リ、長官、
何、セ、ヨ、猶、二時、右、通、講、ト、手、テ、居、タ、答、
ト、云、ハ、長官、二、三、頁、讀、テ、後、コ、文書、日本
政府、訓、令、依、提、セ、シ、タルモ、ト、ヤ、ト、大使、尋、不
タ、リ、大使、然、リ、合、タ、リ、長官、以、文書、于、讀、之、
此、不、要、木、便、向、手、

1941年9月1日
本大使、會見、於、一言、
誠、言、云、
此、記録、TURKEY TO ROOM 361
二、在、コト、九、年、間、二、次、上、何、政、府、が、

COPY

Dec 22.04

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仕事取ルキ聲言ト至由テ以テ充端セラヒ文書日ヲ見テ
此トナシ

ト云ヒタリ

日本大使ヨリ長官手交セル右文書、寫通テ添附シテ
シテ、セラフアリカバラタイ、
(Joseph W. Ballantine)

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日本ノ布達眞珠灣攻撃ハワントン時間一四年十二月
七午後一時三十分本、此時間午前七時五十分即チ
東京時間二三十二月八日午前二時二十分行
東京時間十二月八日午前七時二二時二十分行
午後四時日本大本營ハ當日拂曉ヲ期シテ戰
争が開始サシテ、日本敵シ

11/02